Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, October 24, 2008

The President's Radio Address

October 18, 2008

Good morning. Our Nation is dealing with a serious financial crisis. Over the past month, Americans have witnessed fast-moving events involving complicated financial issues. I know many of you are concerned about your finances. So this morning, I want to tell you how we're addressing the uncertainty in our economy.

The Federal Government has responded to this crisis with systematic and aggressive measures to protect the financial security of the American people. These actions will take more time to have their full impact. But they are big enough and bold enough to work.

The primary focus of our efforts is addressing the underlying problem behind the freeze in our credit markets. Earlier this month, Congress passed bipartisan legislation authorizing the Treasury Department to use up to $700 billion to help banks rebuild capital. This week, I announced that the Treasury will use a portion of that money to inject capital directly into banks by purchasing equity shares. This new capital will help banks continue making loans to businesses and consumers. In addition, the Treasury will use part of the $700 billion to purchase some of the troubled assets that are weighing down banks' balance sheets and clogging the financial system. This extraordinary effort is designed with one overriding purpose: to help banks get loans flowing to American consumers and businesses, so they can create jobs and grow our economy.

I know many Americans have reservations about the Government's approach, especially about allowing the Government to hold shares in private banks. As a strong believer in free markets, I would oppose such measures under ordinary circumstances. But these are no ordinary circumstances. Had the Government not acted, the hole in our financial system would have grown larger, families and businesses would have had an even tougher time getting loans, and ultimately, the Government would have been forced to respond with even more drastic and costly measures later on. So I decided that Government had to move, but that Government's involvement in individual banks had to have prudent limits.

The Government's involvement is limited in size. The Government will only buy a small percentage of shares in banks that choose to participate, so that private investors retain majority ownership.

The Government's involvement is limited in scope. The Government will not exercise control over any private firm, and Federal officials will not have a seat around your local bank's boardroom table. The shares owned by the Government will have voting rights that can be used only to protect the taxpayers' investment, not to direct the firm's operations.

The Government's involvement is limited in duration. It includes provisions to encourage banks to buy their shares back from the Government when the markets stabilize and they can raise money from private investors. This will ensure that banks have an incentive to find private capital to replace the taxpayers' investment, and to do so quickly.

I know many of you are also concerned about the price tag of this rescue package. Ultimately, we believe the final cost will be significantly less than the initial investment. Many of the troubled assets that the Government buys will increase in value as the market recovers. That means the Government eventually will be able to resell them for a higher price. In addition, the Government will receive quarterly dividends from the equity shares it purchases in financial institutions. If banks do not repurchase these shares within 5 years, the dividends they owe the Government will increase substantially. This provides a clear incentive for banks to buy

back their shares, thus returning the money to taxpayers as soon as possible.

In the long run, the American people can have confidence that our economy will bounce back. America is the best place in the world to start and run a business, the most attractive destination for investors around the globe, and home to the most talented, enterprising, and creative workers in the world. We're a country where all people have the freedom to realize their potential and chase their dreams. This promise has defined our Nation since its founding, this promise will guide us through the challenges we face today, and this promise will continue to define our Nation for generations to come.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:45 a.m. on October 17 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 18. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With European Union Leaders at Camp David, Maryland

October 18, 2008

President Bush. I want to welcome two friends to Camp David: President Sarkozy of France, who is representing the European Union, and President Barroso of the European Commission. We're really glad you're here.

I'm looking forward to an important discussion of the global financial crisis, which is having an impact on hard-working people all across the world. The first task is to stabilize the financial markets in our own countries. Given that the world has never been more interconnected, it is essential that we work together, because we're in this crisis together.

That's why over the past few weeks, the United States and our partners in Europe have cooperated closely to address this challenge. Earlier this month, the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank, and four other central banks carried out a coordinated interest rate cut. Last weekend, G–7 finance ministers and central bank governors approved a plan of action to stabilize our markets, rebuild confidence in our financial systems, and restore the flow of credit to our businesses and our consumers.

As part of this action plan, leaders in Europe have taken measures to provide financial institutions with additional capital, provide credit guarantees, and increase deposit insurance.

In the United States, we're taking systematic and aggressive steps to help banks rebuild capital and resume lending. For example, the Treasury Department will directly inject capital into banks by purchasing equity shares. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has temporarily guaranteed most new debt issued by insured banks, which will make it easier for these banks to borrow needed money from each other. The Federal Reserve is launching a new program to provide support for commercial paper, a key source of short-term financing for America's businesses and financial institutions.

These are historic measures, suited to our system, which I believe will work. These measures will take time. We're dealing with a significant problem. But the American people and our friends around the world can know that we have confidence that the measures will work.

In addition, G–8 leaders issued a statement this week expressing support for an international meeting on the financial crisis. I've been in touch with Prime Minister Aso of Japan, who happens to be the President of the G–8, and we've been consulting with the Japanese. I look forward to hosting this meeting in the near future. Both developed and developing nations will be represented. And together we will work to strengthen and modernize our nations' financial systems, so we can help ensure that this crisis doesn't happen again.

For this meeting to be a success, we must welcome good ideas from around the world. So I'm looking forward to hearing from President Sarkozy and President Barroso this afternoon and from other leaders in the days ahead. And of course, I'll share my ideas as well.

As we make the regulatory and institutional changes necessary to avoid a repeat of this crisis, it is essential that we preserve the foundations of democratic capitalism, a commitment to free markets, free enterprise, and free trade. We must resist the dangerous temptation of economic isolationism and continue the policies of open markets that have lifted standards of living and helped millions of people escape poverty around the world.

This is a trying time for all our nations. I am confident that we will overcome the challenges we face. With determination and focused action, we will weather this crisis, return our economies to the path of prosperity and long-term growth.

Mr. President.

President Sarkozy. President, my dear George, thank you for having invited us. We—and by that I mean I, myself, and President Barroso—have a mandate from the 27 members of the European Union to come here and say first and foremost that this is a worldwide crisis, and therefore, we must find a worldwide solution.

Each region of the world, each part of the world—to begin with the United States and then the European countries and now Asia—are trying to find an answer to the crisis. But this answer will be all the more effective insofar as we find it together, we speak with one and the same voice, and we build together the capitalism of the future.

I say things that I deeply believe here. This may be a great opportunity if we do not fall back into the hateful practices of the past, practices that have led us exactly where we are right now. The President of the United States is right in saying that protectionism and closing one's borders is a catastrophe. He is right to say that it would be wrong, catastrophic, to challenge the foundations of market economics. But we cannot continue along the same lines, because the same problems will trigger the same disasters. We can only go forward with a sense of responsibility, and that those who have made the mistakes bear the brunt of their errors and shoulder that burden of responsibility.

And we have come here on behalf of Europe to say to this great American Nation that we wish to build a better world, the world of the 21st century; that we wish to work hand in glove in building this world with you. But we must not waste any time. We want a summit—the nations of the G–8—as has been stated, and no doubt the G–5 countries, so that together with Asian states and others, we find a worldwide solution. This must be done forthwith, as President Bush has said, possibly even before the end of the month of November.

And we believe that insofar as the crisis began in New York, then the global solution must be found to this crisis in New York. All of us putting our heads together, we must look on the fundamental rules that will apply to this 21st century of ours. We live in the 21st century, but we continue to apply 20th century rules. Hedge funds cannot continue operating as they have in the past; tax havens, neither. Financial institutions that are under no supervisory control—this is no longer acceptable; this is no longer possible. Together among friends, among allies, we must be able to say to the world that we are determined to find a solution together, to find answers together.

George, my friend, together with Jose Manuel, myself, we speak with one and the same voice. We have brought European nations together. That was no easy task. There were British traditions, French traditions, German traditions, Latin traditions, but we found a solution. And why were we able to do so? Quite simply because this is such a serious crisis; it is such a systemic crisis.

And it is on that note that I wish to end. Why must we make haste? We must make haste because we must stabilize the marketplace as swiftly as possible by coming up with answers. Once calm has been restored, we must avoid at all costs that those who have led us to where we are today should be allowed to do so once again. We believe in the capacity and the ability of the American people to come up with the answers the world is waiting for, is expecting, because this sort of capitalism is a betrayal of the sort of capitalism we believe in.

And that is the reason why, with President Barroso, we have come to make Europe's voice heard. And next week, we will be chairing the Europe-Asia summit and get across the same message.

In today's world, this world of ours, we cannot leave anyone out, anyone out of the global worldwide solution that we need to this crisis. Thank you, Mr. President, for having invited us. Thank you for using your term of office right up until the very end to help the world find the answers to a crisis that we must contain. We must not give way to fatalism.

President Durao Barroso. Mr. President, George, thank you for receiving us here at Camp David. This is a global financial crisis that requires global solutions. Europe is taking decisive action. Our 27 member states and European Union institutions have worked and have agreed this week on a common framework for directions to deal with the financial crisis. This includes measures to address liquidity in interbank markets, recapitalization of banks, and guaranteeing households' deposits. Coordination and consistency of countries' decisions is the way to secure an efficient response to these unprecedented challenges. For these unprecedented challenges, we need an unprecedented level of global coordination.

European Union and United States account for a very significant share of world finance. Around 77 percent of world wholesale finance is from the United States and from Europe. We Europeans and Americans must now join efforts and extend our cooperation to major developed and emerging countries. We must act swiftly to respond to the urgency, but we must also look forward at the medium and long term.

The international financial system—its basic principles and regulations and its institutions need reform. We need a new global financial order. Together, the European Union and the U.S., we can make a difference. Together we should show the way towards an international response to the financial crisis and contribute to global growth.

This is why Europe wants the calling of an international summit as soon as possible to launch an effective world response to world crisis. It's precisely because if you live in open societies and open economies—open societies need rules, the rule of law, the rule of democracy. Markets also need rules; if possibly, commonly agreed rules. And as President Sarkozy just said, we'll be this week also in Beijing for the ASEM summit, where we hope to engage also with our partners around this very line.

Addressing the financial crisis must go hand in hand with providing our enterprises and citizens the conditions for creating wealth and jobs. I really believe we have a very strong responsibility. Thank you very much for receiving us.

President Bush. Thank you, Jose.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:27 p.m. Participating in the meeting were President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council; and President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of the European Commission. President Sarkozy spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement by the United States and the European Union on the Global Economy

October 18, 2008

The three leaders had a very positive discussion about the continued coordination of steps needed to solve the crisis in today's global economy. They agreed they would reach out to other world leaders next week with the idea of beginning a series of summits on addressing the challenges facing the global economy.

World leaders will be consulted about the idea of a first summit of heads of government to be held in the U.S. soon after the U.S. elections, in order to review progress being made to address the current crisis and to seek agreement on principles of reform needed to avoid a repetition and assure global prosperity in the future. Later summits would be designed to implement agreement on specific steps to be taken to meet those principles.

NOTE: The statement referred to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council; and President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of the European Commission. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Presidential Determination With Respect to Foreign Governments' Efforts Regarding Trafficking in Persons

October 17, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2009–5

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination with Respect to Foreign Governments' Efforts Regarding Trafficking in Persons

Consistent with section 110 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (Division A of Public Law 106–386), as amended, (the "Act"), I hereby:

- Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, with respect to Burma, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and Syria, not to provide certain funding for those countries' governments for Fiscal Year 2009, until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act;
- Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act, with respect to Cuba and Iran not to provide certain funding for those countries' governments for Fiscal Year 2009, until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance, as may be determined by the Secretary of State in a report to the Congress pursuant to section 110(b) of the Act;
- Make the determination provided in section 110(d)(3) of the Act, concerning the determination of the Secretary of State with respect to Moldova and Oman;
- Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Algeria, Fiji, Kuwait, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan, that provision to these countries' governments of all programs, projects, or activities of assistance described in sections 110(d)(1)(A)(i) and 110(d)(1)(B) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States;
- Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to the DPRK, that a partial waiver to allow funding for programs described in section 110(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act that support the goals of the Six-Party talks would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States; and
- Determine, consistent with section 110(d)(4) of the Act, with respect to Iran, that a partial waiver to allow funding for educational and cultural exchange programs described in section 110(d)(1)(A)(ii) of the Act would promote the purposes of the Act or is otherwise in the national interest of the United States.

You are hereby authorized and directed to submit this determination and the certification required by section 110(e) of the Act to the Congress and to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 27, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 20, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 28.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Business Leaders in Alexandria, Louisiana

October 20, 2008

I am honored to be with you all. Thank you very much for hosting this meeting here—and the good folks from Alexandria and Pineville, Louisiana.

I have come to talk about the economic situation in the country. A lot of the people down here and other parts of the country are wondering why a free market-oriented President made the decisions to—necessary, well, to get the Government buying stocks

in banks, for example. Why would you do that?

The answer is, because I was deeply concerned about a financial crisis becoming so profound and so acute that it hurt the people and small-business owners here in Alexandria and Pineville—that's why. If I felt that the crisis could be contained in Wall Street, then I'd have taken a different course of action. But the crisis that was gripping this country, and still has a grip on this country, affects the people around this table. And that's why I made the decision I made.

Part of that decision is to make sure that the people who end up with hard-working taxpayers' money don't enrich themselves as a result of that kind of money. As I was talking to Rodney Alexander—he's a fine Congressman from this part of the world—he said, "One thing people want to make sure of, Mr. President, is that when you invest that they're not able to take that Government investment and use it to their own advantage, personally"—in other words, golden parachutes or something like that.

Secondly, I believe—and I can say this with confidence to the people out here—that I think we're going to get—be able to get most of your money back. And the reason I say that is because the Government is really making investments, and, obviously, making investments in a difficult period for our economy. And we're big enough and patient enough to be able to hold these investments. Plus the investments are structured to encourage, for example, big banks, when they get back on their feet and get doing better to be—to buy back the shares or get somebody else to buy back the shares.

One of the things that I have heard around the table—and I'm not surprised—is that the regional banks and the community banks, which provide such an important part of many communities—or are such an important part of many communities, and provide such stability for the country's financial system, they're worried about being labeled with the same brush as some of the big banks that have had economic difficulties. And I think the people in Alexandria need to know that community banks are strong, and they got good capital ratios, and they're healthy. And that's good. It's going to be very important for the small-business sector.

I am deeply concerned about the small-business sector. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners. And we've got small-business owners with us today, and one of the problems facing small-business owners is that they were very worried that their non-interest-bearing accounts in banks were not insured. And so the FDIC took action to insure those accounts so that small-business owners can be comfortable that their money they got in place for inventories are in good shape.

And then the question I've asked here is, what are the attitudes like? And I have heard that people's attitudes are beginning to change from a period of intense concerns—and I would call it near panic—to being more relaxed and beginning to see the effects of changes in the liquidity that is being pumped in the system. Now, we got a long way to go. As I said Friday, this thaw—took a while to thaw; it's going to take a while to unthaw. But it's—but the attitude here is a little different than it might have been a week ago.

And so I want to thank you all very much for giving me a chance to come visit with you. I'm very fond of this part of the country. It's not that far away from my home State. And so, appreciate your time. Appreciate the good folks in this part of the world. I do want to thank all those who have said prayers for me and Laura during our Presidency. It's meant an awful lot. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:32 p.m. at the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce.

Memorandum on Certifications Pursuant to the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act

October 20, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2009–6

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Certifications Pursuant to the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act (Public Law 110–369)

Pursuant to section 102(c) and section 204(a) of the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act, I hereby certify that:

1. Entry into force and implementation of the United States-India Agreement for Cooperation on Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy pursuant to its terms is consistent with the obligation of the United States under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons not in any way to assist, encourage, or induce India to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and

2. It is the policy of the United States to work with members of the Nuclear Suppliers Group, individually and collectively, to agree to further restrict the transfers of equipment and technology related to the enrichment of uranium and reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 27, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 21, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 28.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting Certifications Pursuant to the United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act

October 20, 2008

Dear _____:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress the certifications required under section 102(c) and section 204(a) of the "United States-India Nuclear Cooperation Approval and Nonproliferation Enhancement Act," (Public Law 110–369), and a Memorandum of Justification regarding those certifications.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate; Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; and Howard L. Berman, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 21.

Remarks at the White House Summit on International Development

October 21, 2008

Thank you all. Madam President, I could not think of anybody better to give me dancing lessons than you. [*Laughter*] We love you. I love your spirit; I love your leadership; I love the example you set for leaders all across the globe. And it's an honor to be here with you.

And it's an honor to be here with you all. I welcome you to the White House Summit on International Development. It's a summit to herald the outstanding work being done to lift up souls in need. I appreciate the fact that folks in this room represent thousands that are replacing disease with health, dependency with self-reliance, and despair with hope.

The people gathered here come from different countries—I see we represent different professions—but we're united by our

commitment to charting a new era in development. Today I'm going to talk with you about this new philosophy, about the way it's transforming countries and saving lives, and about why it's essential to continue in the years ahead.

Before I do so, I want to recognize not only the President, but her son, Robert. I suspect your mother tells you what to do like my mother tells me what to do. [*Laughter*] As a matter of fact, your mother tells me what to do. [*Laughter*] Welcome.

Congressman Donald Payne, we're sure proud you're here; thank you, Mr. Chairman, for coming. Much of the success of the programs we've implemented are due to, one, the generosity of the American people, but also the fine group of people that are implementers: Henrietta Fore, the Administrator of USAID; Rob Mosbacher, president and CEO of OPIC; Ambassador John Danilovich, Millennium Challenge Corporation CEO; Ambassador Mark Dybul, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator; Rear Admiral Tim Ziemer, U.S. Malaria Coordinator. Thank you all for being leaders.

The second choice to introduce me was Bob Geldof, musician. Of course, he'd have got up and said, "I saw him try to sing while in Africa." [*Laughter*] I've come to really appreciate Bob Geldof. He is a genuine person who has used his fame to help others in need, and it is a—it's been a joy to work with you. And you know, you and I might look differently, but I think we share the same compassion and the same hopes. And thank you for joining us today.

I want to thank the panelists who have participated in this conference. I do want to welcome members of the diplomatic corps; thank you all for coming by today.

You know, we meet today in the middle of a serious global financial crisis. Over the past few weeks, we have seen how the world's economies are more interconnected than ever before. The crisis is having a major impact on working people all over the world, including many in developing nations.

During times of economic crisis, some may be tempted to turn inward, focusing on our problems here at home, while ignoring our interests around the world. This would be a serious mistake. America is committed—and America must stay committed—to international development for reasons that remain true regardless of the ebb and flow of the markets. We believe that development is in America's security interests. We face an enemy that can't stand freedom. And the only way they can recruit to their hateful ideology is by exploiting despair, and the best way to respond is to spread hope.

We believe that we ought to remain committed to development because it's in our long-term economic interests. When America helps developing nations rise out of poverty, we create new markets for our goods and services, and better jobs for American workers. And we're committed to development because it's in our moral interests. I strongly believe in the timeless truth, to whom much is given, much is required. We are a blessed nation, and I believe we have a duty to help those less fortunate around the world. We believe that power to save lives comes with the obligation to use it. And I believe our Nation is better when we help people fight hunger and disease and illiteracy.

For all of these reasons, this administration has made international development one of our biggest priorities. As the President mentioned, we've worked with partner nations—as well as the World Bank, and the IMF, and the African Development Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank—to relieve tens of billions of dollars in debt from some of the world's poorest nations. By relieving crushing debt burdens, it gives people hope. We've also worked with wealthier nations to provide aid in the form of grants instead of loans. For the past 8 years, the United States has provided more foreign assistance than at any time in the past half century.

We're using this aid to foster sustainable economic growth and promote good governance and advance a model of true partnership that gives poor nations a real stake in their own development. We're encouraging volunteer organizations, local charities, and the faith community to take on an even greater role, because we strongly believe that they offer compassion that no government can offer. Most of all, we're insisting on accountability in return for our assistance, so we can

ensure that our generosity leads to measurable results. You know, for too long, foreign aid was designed to make us feel good. Now, we're ensuring that our resources do good.

This new approach to development is embodied by a revolutionary initiative called the Millennium Challenge Account. See, this program says that the United States will help, but we expect countries that we help to fight corruption and to govern justly. There's nothing more pitiful than to have people's hopes robbed by corrupt government officials. We say to those we want to help, support open markets to trade and investment, and above all, invest in your people's health and education. You see, by tying our aid to these policies, we are encouraging developing nations to make tough economic and political and social reforms. We encourage leaders to respect their citizens, uphold human dignity, and work to earn the trust of their people. This approach is based on a clear conviction: People in the developing world have the capacity to improve their own lives, and they will rise to meet high standards.

I refuse to accept the development model that says, oh, these people are doomed forever; let's just throw money at the problem. We believe that if you set high standards, good people will rise to meet those standards, regardless of where they live in the world. So the Millennium Challenge Account is a robust program that has invested $6.7 billion in 35 countries around the world. From Albania to Moldova to Indonesia to Mongolia to Paraguay to Peru, these partnerships are helping developing nations take charge of their future, and more importantly, unleash the talents of their people.

For example, this February, President Kikwete of Tanzania and I signed a 5-year, nearly $700 million compact to improve the country's transportation, energy, and water supply. It's pretty basic needs, isn't it?—transportation, energy, and water supply. The partnership will build roads that connect rural Tanzanians to markets and schools and health clinics. It's hard to have a modern society if you can't get your product from rural to urban centers in your country. It's hard to get doctors to help people in the rural part of the country if you don't have roads to connect health care clinics to those in need. It's going to extend electricity to homes and businesses in some of the most remote areas of the country. It will increase access to clean drinking water, which will help reduce preventable diseases, especially in young children. Through these projects, the Millennium Challenge compact is helping Tanzania build a foundation for success in the 21st century, showing the promise of a new era in development.

In the new era of development, America and our partners are helping to meet basic human needs like food and clean water. There's nothing more basic than food and clean water. Since 2002, the United States has provided more than $16 billion in food assistance, helping to ensure that tens of millions of people around the world do not go hungry. In response to the current global food crisis, we've committed $5.5 billion to address global hunger over the next 2 years. And that's important. These are stopgap measures. The American people care when they hear people are going hungry around the world. And I want to thank the American people for their generosity.

But as we work to resolve the crisis in the long run, we have got to find better solutions for global hunger in the long term. In the short run, we're helping; in the long term, we're developing a strategy and working with partners to help them grow their own food. There's no other way to put it. The best long-term policy for the United States is to help nations develop their own agricultural industry, so we don't have to deal with global food crisis year in and year out.

And so we supply poor and rural farmers with fertilizer and water-management systems. We distribute better seeds that will boost yields and invest in research that will make crops like rice and wheat more resistant to drought and pests. You know, one of the really important challenges that this administration has taken on, and future administrations must take on, is to say to other markets around the world, it is okay to import markets to crops grown with biotechnology. A lot of countries are resistant upon introducing these new technologically advanced crops, because they fear they're not going to be able to sell their crops elsewhere. And

yet these crops will help people realize a vibrant agricultural industry.

I believe that as the United States moves forward, we ought to purchase up to a quarter of our food from local farmers. In other words, of all the food aid we get we ought to take a quarter of that, Donald, and purchase the food directly from local farmers. If it's in our interest to help build a local agricultural industry, then instead of just giving food, we ought to purchase food from the farmers themselves, to help build a vibrant agricultural sector in parts of the world where food is desperately needed. I support the World Bank's strategy to increase investment in agriculture.

What I'm telling you is there's a better way than just a kind of patchwork approach. It's an approach that basically says we can use our technological advancement and our expertise to help build vibrant agricultural industries in nations where there ought to be crops today.

The United States works with partner nations to deal with the lack of clean water. Last year, we dedicated nearly a billion dollars to improve sanitation and water supplies in developing nations. We're also wise enough to enlist the private sector to help as well.

I want to share with you an interesting program—for two reasons, one, it's interesting, and two, my wife thought of it—[*laughter*]—or has actually been involved with it; she didn't think of it. But she thought of it for this speech. She has been involved with a public-private partnership called the PlayPumps Alliance. It brings together international foundations and corporations and the U.S. Government. Now, catch this: PlayPumps are children's merry-go-rounds attached to a water pump and a storage tank. When the wheel turns, clean drinking water is produced. And as my good wife says, "PlayPumps are fueled by a limitless energy source—[*laughter*]—children at play."

The United States is working with our partners to install 4,000 pumps in schools and communities across sub-Sahara Africa, which will provide clean drinking water to as many as 10 million people. It's not that hard to help people get clean drinking water. It takes focus, imagination, and effort. And I call upon all nations around the world to join us.

In the new era of development, America and our partners recognize that education is the gateway to prosperity and essential to any society's long-term success. It's pretty obvious, isn't it? If people are educated, they can read the instructions on a medicine bottle. They can keep receipts for a small business. They can learn about the rights and privileges they have under their country's constitutions. Yet too many people can't read. America and our partners are determined to extend the promise of good education to more people in the developing world.

In the Middle East, USAID has partnered with local officials to start kindergartens in Jordan, taught hundreds of thousands of children about information technology in Morocco, built 70 schools for girls in Egypt.

Through our Africa Education Initiative, as the President mentioned, the United States has trained more than 700,000 teachers. I think you said a million teachers? Yes, I'll go for a million then. [*Laughter*] Somewhere between 700 and a million. [*Laughter*] Distributed more than 10 million textbooks—somewhere between 10 million and 15 million—and provided hundreds of thousands of scholarships to help girls go to school.

Last year, I announced a new initiative that will devote $425 million to improve education in Ethiopia and Ghana and Honduras and Liberia and Mali and Yemen. Why? Why do we do that? Because the truth of the matter is, we want children to fulfill their God-given potential; that's why we do that. And so we're helping to train the doctors and the lawyers and the engineers and entrepreneurs and the women presidents who will be vital to the future of the developing world.

In the new era of development, America and our partners are helping to lift the burden of deadly disease. In Africa, the treatable and preventable disease of malaria kills one child every 30 seconds. So in 2005, I launched a 5-year, $1.2 billion initiative that cut the number of malaria-related deaths in 15 African nations by half.

Through the initiative, we joined with African governments—notice, "we joined with African governments"—to design malaria

control strategies that will work with their nations. We expect results for the money we spend. And yet we're confident when we work with governments that they can develop the strategy necessary to achieve the objectives. And so we supply the money, and our partner nations work to distribute insecticide-treated bed nets, conduct indoor spraying campaigns, and provide cutting-edge drugs.

The interesting thing about this initiative is, it's easy to measure whether or not we're being successful. In the new development agenda, results matter a lot. And therefore, when the United States works with countries, we expect there to be a well-defined strategy and the ability to measure whether or not our money is working. I don't think that's too much to ask, nor do the people who are trying to help think that's too much to ask.

So far, our efforts have reached 25 million people. In places like Zambia and Ethiopia and Rwanda and Zanzibar, the numbers of people sick or dying from malaria have dropped dramatically. We have not only made progress around the edges, we've made dramatic progress in saving lives. I find that the work to defeat malaria is exciting work, and it is inspiring work. And frankly, it's not all that hard to design a strategy to get bed nets to people. And I want to thank my fellow citizens for caring deeply about this initiative. And I want to thank our partners for working hard to make sure that a mom won't have to worry about her child dying because of a mosquito bite.

The President talked about our fight against HIV/AIDS. And it's a noble battle, and it's a necessary battle. In 2003, as she had mentioned, we launched PEPFAR. The program is the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in human history. Ambassador Dybul and I believe that the program is effective because it is defined by a few key principles. You know, if you're going to have a new era of development, it's important to have clear definitions. It's one thing just to throw money at the problem; it's another thing to insist upon strategies that actually work. So the emergency plan demands specific measurable targets for progress. His job is to not only put the implementers in place and to find those souls who are on the frontlines of saving lives and empower them; his job is to report back to the President and say, "Here is the progress we're making, Mr. President." That way it gives me a chance to say, "Well, if you're not making enough progress, Mark, do something differently, please."

It employs a prevention strategy that works: ABC, which means "Abstinence, Be faithful, and use Condoms." This isn't guesswork; this is a program that is working. It puts local partners in the lead, because they know the needs of their people best. It enlists new partners from the international community, the private sector, and the faith community.

I can't tell you how many people that I've met in the United States who say, "I'm part of PEPFAR because my church has adopted the program." You know, there's nothing better than having people who hear the universal call to love a brother like you'd like to be loved yourselves on the frontline of helping to save lives.

And the United States Government is smart enough to enlist the compassion and love and hard work of people in the faith community in the United States to help our brothers and sisters in need. So far, the results are striking. When we launched the initiative in 2003, only 50,000 people in sub-Sahara Africa were receiving antiretroviral treatment.

Today, we support treatment for nearly 1.7 million people in the region, and tens of thousands of more around the world, from Asia to the Caribbean to Eastern Europe. PEPFAR has supported care for nearly 7 million people, including millions of orphans and vulnerable children. PEPFAR has allowed nearly 200,000 children in Africa to be born HIV-free. PEPFAR is working. And I want to thank the United States Congress for coming together to reauthorize and dramatically expand this program.

I'm sure that many of you had the same experiences that Laura and I have had in meeting people whose lives have been touched by the initiatives we're talking about today. I'll never forget meeting Harriet Namutebi. She is—we met her in Africa on our trip 5 years ago. She lost her brother, her husband, and one of her children to

AIDS. She was diagnosed, she locked herself in her room, she refused to eat, and she wanted to die.

But at a clinic supported by PEPFAR, Harriet was given a new lease on life. Counselors at the clinic showed Harriet how to live positively with HIV. A loving soul took this person who was in despair and said, "Here's a chance for you."

Thanks to the antiretroviral treatments Harriet received, she is now in good health. She cares for four children. She is an enthusiastic member of the clinic's drama group, which educates others about HIV. She is living proof of what people in Africa call the Lazarus effect: Communities once given up for dead are now being brought back to life. And it is a joy to be a part of PEPFAR.

In the new era of development, we are working with partners to unleash the greatest engine of prosperity the world has ever known, and that is free trade. For developing nations, the value of trade is nearly 40 times the value of foreign aid. Let me repeat that: For developing nations, the value of trade is 40 times the value of foreign aid. Isn't that an interesting statistic? What should that tell you? It says, if you're interested in helping the developing world, promote trade. That's what it ought to tell you.

According to the World Bank, the complete elimination of barriers to trading goods would boost annual income in developing countries by more than $140 billion. I think that would go a long way, don't you, Madam President?

You know, trade opens growth, ignites growth, but it also produces other benefits. It helps increase transparency; it helps increase the rule of law. During my administration, we have worked hard to reduce barriers to trade and investment. When I took office, we had free trade agreements in effect with three nations. Today, we have them with 14 nations; most of them are developing countries. We've also—[*applause*].

My predecessor, President Clinton, did a smart thing with the African Growth and Opportunity Act. My administration had the honor of extending that act. In 2005, I worked with Congress to pass a free trade agreement with the Dominican Republic and nations in Central America; it's called CAFTA. And although it's still in its early stages, trade between participating countries with the U.S. is up 30 percent since its enactment. Do you know what that means? That means more jobs for workers in those countries. It means more food for families. It means more investment that developing countries need to grow and prosper. That's what that means.

Trade is essential to prosperity in both good economic times and bad. During periods of crisis, like the one we're in now, protectionism may seem like the best way to safeguard wealth. But when major economies try to wall themselves off, they deny themselves the growth that comes from exports and deepen poverty by depriving poor nations of vital markets for their goods. You see, in the midst of this crisis, I believe the world ought to send a clear signal that we remain committed to open markets by reducing barriers to trade across the globe. The recent impasse in the Doha round of trade talks is disappointing, but that doesn't have to be the final world—word. And so before I leave office, I'm going to press hard to make sure we have a successful Doha round.

In this new era of development, countries that make the courageous choice to embrace democracy must realize the economic benefits that go with it. When young democracies do not deliver improvements in their people's daily lives, the people start to lose faith in free societies. That's a fact.

For example, let's talk about our own neighborhood. I believe it's in our interest that we have a good, sound neighborhood. It's in our interest our neighborhood prosper and get along. And we've seen hopeful advances for democracy and free enterprise in North and South America. There's no doubt about it; there's been some amazing advances. Yet there's also voices that challenge free markets and democratic values—quite loud voices. Some of them have gained a following, because amid the progress in our hemisphere, we also see terrible want. What the *campesinos* and *trabajadores* want is—what they don't need is false populism; what they do need is social justice. And the development aid of the United States has been focused on providing social justice in our neighborhood.

True social justice requires creating new opportunities for prosperity and upward mobility. So working in partnership with Latin American nations, we've helped more than 400,000 poor and disadvantaged children learn to read. We've increased economic opportunity by relieving debt and opening trade, as I mentioned. We've delivered aid that empowers the poor and the marginalized. Since I took office, with support from the Congress, the United States has provided nearly $15 billion to the region with a special focus on helping the poor.

True social justice requires government institutions that are fair and effective and free from corruption. You can't have social justice if your government is stealing from you. Since 2001, the United States has doubled our worldwide commitment to programs that foster democracy and good government, including programs in Latin America. We've entered into the Millennium Challenge Account agreements with six nations in Latin America and the Caribbean, and a number of other countries are pursuing compacts.

We've worked with countries like El Salvador to train law enforcement officers who can combat criminal gangs. Mexico—we're partnering with the Government to stop smugglers who traffic in everything from guns to human beings. Colombia—we've worked closely with President Uribe to defeat the cocaine cartels and narcoterrorists. By the way, it is no coincidence last year that Colombia's economy saw its largest growth in nearly three decades, because that country has got a strong leader willing to take on the FARC.

True social justice requires compassion. And some of the greatest work of compassion in Latin America is being done by the United States military. I don't know if you ever heard of the Navy hospital ship called the *Comfort*, but it sailed to 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean last year. Doctors treated tens of thousands of poor patients and conducted more than 26,000 surgeries. Dentists and hygienists filled cavities and cared for infections and treated young children. These men and women are showing that the nations of Latin America have a strong partner in the United States of America. They're a part of our efforts to show that the institutions of freedom and capitalism and democracy are not threats to be feared, but the surest path to social justice there is.

From fostering good governance and reform to alleviating hunger and disease to advancing education, prosperity, and justice, our new approach to development has shown inspiring signs of success. Yet this success can be reversed, and the cost of abandoning our commitments would be far higher than the cost of fulfilling them. So I urge both parties in Congress to ensure that our development efforts remain an enduring priority of the United States.

I call on other members of the G–8 and the United Nations, as well as our fellow contributors to the Global Fund, to follow through on their pledges. Corporations and foundations have shared their resources and expertise with the developing world, and I urge them to continue their generosity. Faith-based groups have done amazing work to heal the sick and lift up the suffering, and I urge them to carry on their missions of mercy.

It's amazing what individual Americans have done to help with our—the new era of development. I got a Christmas gift from one of my little nephews, which was mosquito nets. Thousands of individuals and schoolchildren in—all across the country are donating $10 to buy a mosquito net to help save a life. There are people who are raising money for HIV/AIDS initiative. There are people who are going on a service mission with their house of worship. These folks are making a huge contribution, and I urge them to continue their good work.

History shows what happens when America combines our great compassion with our steadfast determination. We are a compassionate people, and we are a determined people. During a recent visit, a good friend of mine shared his vivid childhood memories of the Marshall plan. We were sitting—standing on the South Lawn. He said he'll never forget the kindness America showed his nation in a time of need, and now that man is the Prime Minister of Italy. And last week, Silvio Berlusconi expressed his enduring loyalty and gratitude to the people of the United States.

It's not hard to imagine what fruits our compassion will yield 60 years from today. We can see it in the faces of Afghan girls going to school for the first time. We can see them in the proud eyes of Latin American workers providing for themselves and for their families. We see them in the joy of new African mothers whose babies are protected from malaria and HIV. We see them in the outpouring of thanks throughout the developing world. I'm just so sorry that not every American could have been with Laura and me and see what we saw in our trip to Africa last year. Schoolchildren sang songs about America's generosity. One shopowner, I think who was in Liberia, Madam President, painted his stall in our Nation's colors. Tens of thousands of people lined the roadsides during our visit, cheering and waving American flags in gratitude to the American people.

I'm honored to be the President of such a nation filled with people of such generosity and goodness. I'm proud to join with all of you in ushering in a new era of development. This is an historic commitment that we all can be proud of, one that will secure a bright future for our partners in the developing world, one that will make America a better place. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:22 p.m. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, who introduced the President.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia

October 22, 2008

President Bush. Madam President, I have come to respect you and admire you because of your courage, your vision, your commitment to universal values and principles. Laura and I had a fantastic experience traveling to Liberia, and we want to thank you for your warm hospitality. Yesterday you made note of my—of the lack of my talent when it came to dancing. But nevertheless, I want you to know I danced with joy.

And no question, Liberia has gone through very difficult times; but no question, there's a bright future for Liberia. Liberia's needs the help of the United States and other nations to help make sure children are educated, to make sure babies are not dying because of malaria, to make sure there's an infrastructure so that small businesses can flourish, to make sure the port is open for business. We have been helpful, and we want to be helpful in the future. And I'm confident in saying to the American people that by helping this President and Liberia, we really help ourselves in many ways.

And so I—it's been a joy to know you. It's been a great experience working with you, and I congratulate you on your strong leadership. Welcome.

President Johnson Sirleaf. Thank you, Mr. President. I come on behalf of the Liberian people to thank you for the support we've received from you, the administration, from Congress, from the American people. It has enabled us to turn the corner from being what was called a failed state several years ago to today what we hope will becoming to be one of the emerging democracies.

We've been able to put our economic and financial house in order, tackle our debt, begin to rebuild our infrastructure, put our children back into school——

President Bush. That's right.

President Johnson Sirleaf. ——bring some water and electricity to a country that hasn't had it for over two decades. And so we're just so thankful for the encouragement, the support that we've received from you.

I want you to know that the challenges are many, but with the continued support of the American people and continued support of the American administration and Congress, that we feel that Liberia can become a post-conflict success story.

We want to say to you that your visit to our country is one that goes down in the record books—[*laughter*]—as being one of the most enjoyable, not only for the dancing—[*laughter*]—but for all that you did to train our new soldiers——

President Bush. Well, thank you.

President Johnson Sirleaf. ——to put our infrastructure in order; and the hope that you helped to give to Liberian people that

indeed the nightmare is over, and they can have a future that's full of promise.

So we're here to say to you we're very grateful.

President Bush. Thank you.

President Johnson Sirleaf. Liberian people just want to thank you.

President Bush. Thank you.

President Johnson Sirleaf. And thank her—and thank Laura, especially, who was there with you. And we're just so pleased—just tell her.

President Bush. Thank you, Madam President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Situation in or in Relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

October 22, 2008

On October 27, 2006, by Executive Order 13413, I declared a national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706), ordered related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country. I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability.

Because this situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on October 27, 2006, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond October 27, 2008. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 22, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., October 23, 2008]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on October 24.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Situation in or in Relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

October 22, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country, are to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2008.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and that has been addressed by the United Nations Security Council in numerous resolutions, including Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006, and Resolution 1807 of March 31, 2008, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United

States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency to deal with that threat and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying Exports to the People's Republic of China

October 22, 2008

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the provisions of section 1512 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), I hereby certify that the export to the People's Republic of China of two jet mills for fine grinding of friable or crystalline materials to be used in the manufacture of spandex fiber and semiconductor compounds and one spare beam centerline that will be exported for repair/replacement for the continuous operation of a cargo inspection system is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry, and that the material and equipment, including any indirect technical benefit that could be derived from such exports, will not measurably improve the missile or space launch capabilities of the People's Republic of China.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attack on the Marine Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon

October 23, 2008

Twenty-five years ago, a suicide bomb destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. We remember the 241 American marines, soldiers, and sailors who lost their lives in that attack, and we pay tribute to their families and loved ones. The U.S. forces in Lebanon were serving as part of the multinational force working to bring peace and security to that country, torn by years of civil war.

On the anniversary of this unconscionable attack, we honor the memory of those brave service men and women through our commitment to succeeding in the war on terror. We express our gratitude to those serving abroad to protect America and promote peace and freedom around the world. And we reiterate our strong support for the voices of moderation and justice in Lebanon.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Certifying the Establishment of a Registration and Monitoring System for Defense Articles Provided to Iraq

October 23, 2008

Dear _____ *:*

Pursuant to section 1228(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law 110–181 (NDAA), I hereby certify that a registration and monitoring system for defense articles provided to the Government of Iraq or any other group, organization, citizen, or resident of Iraq, meeting the requirements set forth in subsection 1228(c) of the NDAA, has been established.

Specifically, I certify that the registration and monitoring system herein referenced includes:

1. the registration of the serial numbers of all small arms to be provided to the Government of Iraq or to other groups, organizations, citizens, or residents of Iraq;

2. a program of end-use monitoring of all lethal defense articles provided to such entities or individuals; and

3. the maintenance of a detailed record of the origin, shipping, and distribution of all defense articles transferred under the Iraq Security Forces Fund or any other security

assistance program to such entities or individuals.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Carl Levin, chairman, and John McCain, ranking member, Senate Committee on Armed Services; Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Christopher J. Dodd, chairman, and Richard C. Shelby, ranking member, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Ike Skelton, chairman, and Duncan Hunter, ranking member, House Committee on Armed Services; and Howard L. Berman, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Proclamation 8310—United Nations Day, 2008

October 23, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On October 24, 1945, in the wake of the devastation left by World War II, the United Nations was formally established. Today, we recognize the many contributions of the United Nations and renew our commitment to its founding principles.

Sixty-three years ago, representatives from around the world completed the founding charter of the United Nations and pledged to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and to unite their strength to maintain international peace and security. It is vital that this noble pledge continue to guide the United Nations throughout the 21st century. By taking an unequivocal stand against terrorists, those who traffic in persons, and all who exploit the poor, the needy, and the marginalized, the United Nations can live up to the noble ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The United Nations is an organization with extraordinary potential for good works. On United Nation's Day, we recommit ourselves to reforming the U.N., ensuring the highest standards are upheld throughout the organization, and renewing the principals of its charter for the 21st century.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2008, as United Nations Day. I urge the Governors of the 50 States, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas under the flag of the United States to observe United Nations Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., October 27, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 24, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 28.

Remarks Following a Briefing at the National Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland

October 24, 2008

I want to thank General Alexander for his hospitality to me and the Vice President and Director McConnell. We have been here at NSA, which is on the frontline of protecting the American people. Every time I come out here, I'm impressed by the caliber of people who work here, the amount of energy that goes into their jobs, and their deep desire to find an enemy and bring them to justice before they hurt us again.

Ever since 9/11, the people in this building have done what the country expects them to do, and that is to work as hard as necessary to help protect the United States of America. The work here at the NSA is absolutely vital, and I wish all our citizens could meet the folks that work here and realize how smart they are, how capable they are, and how enthusiastic they are in doing their duty.

So, General, thank you for your hospitality. We've enjoyed coming out here, and appreciate the efforts you're putting into protecting the homeland.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. in the Operations Building. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gen. Keith B. Alexander, USA, Director, National Security Agency.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 18

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 19

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

October 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Alexandria, LA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Marion Harrison.

In the afternoon, the President met with families of military personnel killed in the war on terror. He then returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Fernando Armindo Lugo Mendez of Paraguay to the White House on October 27.

The President announced that he has named Jon C. Brause as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Relief, Stabilization, and Development at the National Security Council.

The President announced that he has named Barrett Karr as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Luis A. Reyes as Deputy Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel.

October 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, at the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum, the President attended a National Republican Senatorial Committee reception.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek of the Czech Republic to the White House on October 29.

October 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor.

The President declared a major disaster in Arkansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Tropical Storm Ike from September 13–23.

October 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he met and participated in a photo opportunity with participants of the U.S. Middle East Partnership Initiative.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert A. DeHaan to be Assistant Secretary (Transportation Policy) at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute: Steven C. Hollon; Joseph E. Lambert; Gayle A. Nachtigal; Arthur G. Scotland; and Gerald W. VandeWalle.

The President announced his intention to appoint Abram Claude, Jr., as a member of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

The President announced his intention to appoint Marc Gordon as a member of the

President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint Herbert Briick and Elizabeth Rindskopf as members of the Public Interest Declassification Board.

The President announced that he has designated William E. Reukauf as Acting Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel.

October 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Fort Meade, MD, where, at the National Security Agency—Operations Building, he participated in briefings.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with National Security Agency employees. He then returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Secretary General Jakob Gijsbert "Jaap" de Hoop Scheffer of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In the evening, in the East Room, the President participated in a signing ceremony for North Atlantic Treaty Organization accession protocols for Albania and Croatia.

The President declared a major disaster in Ohio and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe wind storm associated with Tropical Depression Ike on September 14.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Fernando Lugo of Paraguay

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Taliban attack on civilians in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Interagency Council on Homelessness

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 5159 and S. 3197

Fact sheet: White House Summit on International Development

Released October 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek of the Czech Republic

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3511, H.R. 4010, H.R. 4131, H.R. 6558, H.R. 6681, H.R. 6834, H.R. 6847, H.R. 6902, and H.R. 6982

Fact sheet: Transforming International Development

Advance text of the President's remarks at the White House Summit on International Development

Released October 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing a G–20 summit to discuss financial markets and the global economy in Washington, DC, on November 15

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 6197

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Arkansas

Released October 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released October 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Ohio

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 20

H.R. 5159 / Public Law 110–437
Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008

S. 3197 / Public Law 110–438
National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008

Approved October 21

H.R. 3511 / Public Law 110–439
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2150 East Hardtner Drive in Urania, Louisiana, as the "Murphy A. Tannehill Post Office Building"

H.R. 4010 / Public Law 110–440
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 West Percy Street in Indianola, Mississippi, as the "Minnie Cox Post Office Building"

H.R. 4131 / Public Law 110–441
To designate a portion of California State Route 91 located in Los Angeles County, California, as the "Juanita Millender-McDonald Highway"

H.R. 6558 / Public Law 110–442
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1750 Lundy Avenue in San Jose, California, as the "Gordon N. Chan Post Office Building"

H.R. 6681 / Public Law 110–443
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 300 Vine Street in New Lenox, Illinois, as the "Jacob M. Lowell Post Office Building"

H.R. 6834 / Public Law 110–444
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 South Main Street in Wallingford, Connecticut, as the "CWO Richard R. Lee Post Office Building"

H.R. 6847 / Public Law 110–445
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 Industrial Boulevard in Ellijay, Georgia, as the "First Lieutenant Noah Harris Ellijay Post Office Building"

H.R. 6902 / Public Law 110–446
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 513 6th Avenue in Dayton, Kentucky, as the "Staff Sergeant Nicholas Ray Carnes Post Office"

H.R. 6982 / Public Law 110–447
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 210 South Ellsworth Avenue in San Mateo, California, as the "Leo J. Ryan Post Office Building"

Approved October 22

H.R. 6197 / Public Law 110–448
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7095 Highway 57 in Counce, Tennessee, as the "Pickwick Post Office Building"

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